

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01  
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02  
SS-15 USIA-06 SSC-01 DOTE-00 EB-08 INT-05 AGRE-00  
OES-06 TRSE-00 OMB-01 CU-02 COME-00 STR-04 NEAE-00  
FEAE-00 ERDA-05 ERDE-00 /100 W  
-----221728Z 071315 /50

P 221440Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6315  
INFO AMEMBASSY RABAT  
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 ALGIERS 1019

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT AG  
SUBJECT: ALGERIAN CABINET REORGANIZATION ANNOUNCED

1. SUMMARY: GOA HAS ANNOUNCED CABINET REORGANIZATION INVOLVING 14 OF 22 CURRENT MINISTRIES. 5 NEW MINISTRIES CREATED AND 2 SUBSUMED INTO NEW STRUCTURES. CABINET HAS 12 NEW MEMBERS, INCLUDING 2 COUNCIL OF REVOLUTION MEMBERS. 10 MEN, INCLUDING 6 ELECTED TO NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, DROPPED. 5 OTHERS SHIFTED PORTFOLIOS. MAJOR CHANGES ARE BREAKUP OF MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND ENERGY AND APPARENT DEMOTION OF ABDESSELAM. COUNCIL OF REVOLUTION MEMBERS NOW IN CABINET ARE BOTH MILITARY MEN AND WOULD SEEN TO HAVE BEEN ISOLATED FROM THEIR POWER BASES. REORGANIZATION TO CONTINUE. NO VICE PRESIDENT OR PRIME MINISTER ANNOUNCED YET. END SUMMARY.

2. (BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED) ON APRIL 21, GOA ANNOUNCED CABINET REORGANIZATION INVOLVING 14 OF 22 CURRENT MINISTRIES AND SECRETARIATS OF STATE. 5 NEW MINISTRIES WERE CREATED, WITH FUNCTIONS OF 2 EXISTING ONES SUBSUMED INTO NEW STRUCTURES.  
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THUS, IF 8 MINISTRIES NOT AFFECTED BY APRIL 21 REORGANIZATION REMAIN AS THEY ARE, NUMBER OF GOA CABINET AGENCIES WILL RISE TO 25.

3. ON PERSONNEL SIDE, 12 NEW MEN, INCLUDING 2 MEMBERS OF COUNCIL OF REVOLUTION, JOINED CABINET; 10, INCLUDING 6 ELECTED TO NATIONAL POPULAR ASSEMBLY, WERE DROPPED; AND 5 CUR-

RENT MINISTERS TOOK NEW PORTFOLIOS. NO VICE PRESIDENT OR  
PRIME MINISTER ANNOUNCED.

4. FOLLOWING CABINET LIST REFLECTS CHANGES ANNOUNCED APRIL  
21:

A. MINISTER OF DEFENSE: BOUMEDIENE (NO CHANGE)

B. MINISTER OF TRANSPORT: COLONEL AHMED DRAIA, COUNA-  
CIL OF REVOLUTION MEMBER OAND  
FORMER DIRECTOR GENERAL OF  
NATIONAL POLICE. PRE-  
VIOUS MINISTER, RABAT BITAT,  
WAS ELECTED PRESIDENT OF NA-  
TIONAL POPULAR ASSEMBLY.

C. MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: BOUTEFLIKA (NO CHANGE)

D. MINISTER OF INTERIOR: ABDELGHANI (NO CHANGE)

E. MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE

AND AGRARIAN REFORM: TAYEBI LARBI (NO CHANGE)

F. MINISTER OF IRRIGARION, LAND DEVELOPMENT  
AND ENVIRONMENT: COLONEL AHMED BENCHERIF, MEMBER OF  
COUNCIL OF THE REVOLUTION AND FORMER  
COMMANDER OF NATIONAL GENDARMERIE.  
SECRETARIAT OF STATE FOR HYDRAULICS

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SUBSUMED INTO THIS NEW MINISTRY AND  
ITS SECRETARY OF STATE, ABDULLAH AR-  
BAOUI,"CALLED TO OTHER DUTIES."

G. MINISTER OF FINANCE: MOHAMED SEDDIK BENYAHIA, FORMER  
MINISTER OF HIGHER EDUCATION. PRE-  
VIOUS FINANCE MINISTER, ABDELMALEK  
TEMAM, WAS ELECTED TO NATIONAL  
POPULAR ASSEMBLY.

H. MINISTER OF JUSTICE: NONE NAMED.

I. INFORMATION AND CULTURE: REDA MALEK, FORMER AMB-  
ASSADOR TO U.S.S.R. PREVIOUS  
MINISTER, AHMED TALEB IBRAHIMI,  
"CALLED TO OTHER DUTIES."

J. MINISTER OF HIGHER EDUCATION: ABDELLATIF RAHAL, FORMER  
AMBASSADOR TO UN. PREVIOUS

MINISTER, BENUAHIA, IS MIN-  
ISTER OF FINANCE.

KM MINISTER OF FUNDAMENTAL  
AND SECONDARY EDUCATION: MUSTAFA LACHERAF, FORMER  
AMBASSADOR TO MEXICO. PRE-  
VIOUS MINISTER, ABDELKRIM  
BENMAHMOUD, "CALLED TO OTHER  
FUNCTIONS."

L. MINISTER OF LIGHT INDUSTRY: BELAID ABDESSELAM, FORMER  
MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND  
ENERGY, WHOSE FUNCTIONS  
DIVIDED UNDER NEW SYSTEM.

M. MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRY: MOHAMED EL YASSIN, PRESIDENT  
OF NATIONAL STEEL COMPANY  
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(SOCIETE NATIONALE DE SIDER-  
URGIE)

N. MINISTER OF ENERGY AND PETROCHEMICALS: SID AHMED  
GHOZALI, PRESIDENT OF SONATRACH

O. MINISTER OF POSTS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS: MOHAMED ZERGUINI,

P. MINISTER OF HEALTH: SAID AIT MESSAOUDENE, FORMER  
MINISTER OF POSTS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS.  
PREVIOUS MINISTER, OMAR BOUDJELLAB,  
"CALLED TO OTHER FUNCTIONS."

Q. MINISTER OF HOUSING  
AND CONSTRUCTION: LT. COLONEL ABDELMADJID AOUCHICHE,  
NATIONAL DIRECTOR FOR CONSTRUCTION,  
NATIONAL POPULAR ARMY (DNC/ANP).LYNE

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ERDA-05 ERDE-00 /101 W

-----272259Z 019403 /61/50

P 221440Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6316

INFO AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 ALGIERS 1019

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y P A R A R S A N D T A D D E D

R. MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS: BOUALEM BENHAMOUDA,  
FORMER MINISTER OF JUSTICE. PRE-  
VIOUS MINISTER, ABDELKADER  
ZAIBECK, WAS ELECTED TO  
NATIONAL POPULAR ASSEMBLY.

S. MINISTER OF LABOR AND

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION: DR. MOHAMED AMIR, SECRETARY  
GENERAL OF THE PRESIDENCY.

T. MINISTER OF VET-

ERANS' AFFAIRS: MOHAMED SAID MAZOUZI, FORMER  
MINISTER OF LABOR. PREVIOUS MINISTER,  
MAHMOUD GUENNEZ, WAS ELECTED TO NA-  
TIONAL POPULAR ASSEMBLY.

U. MINISTER OF COMMERCE: MOHAMED HADJ YAALA, FORMER COUN-  
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SELOU AT PRESIDENCY. PREVIOUS  
MINISTER, LAYACHI YAKER, WAS EL-  
ECTED TO NATIONAL POPULAR ASSEMBLY.

V. SECRETARY OF STATE FOR  
YOUTH AND SPORTS: DJAMAL HOUHOU, FORMER AMBASSADOR  
TO CAIRO. PREVIOUS SECRETARY,  
ABDELLAH FADHEL, WAS ELECTED TO  
NATIONAL POPULAR ASSEMBLY.

W. MINISTER OF TOURISM: ABDELAZIZ MAOUI (UNCHANGED)

X. MINISTER OF TRADITIONAL EDU-

CATION AND RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS: MOULOUD KASSIM  
(UNCHANGED)

Y. SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE PLAN: KAMAL ABDELLAH  
KHODJA (UNCHANGED)

5. GOA ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT LT. COLONEL MUSTAFA CHELOUFI, COMMANDER OF PRESIDENTIAL GUARD, AND EL HADI KHEDIRI, DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL OF NATIONAL POLICE, HD BECOME INTERIM HEADS OF GENDARMERIE AND NATIONAL POLICE.

6. REORGANIZATION, GOA ANNOUNCEMENT CONCLUDED, WILL CONTINUE. (END UNCLASSIFIED)

7. (BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL) COMMENT: OUR PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS ON FOREGOING ARE:

A. MOST SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IS BREAKUP OF ABDESSELAM'S EMPIRE AND HIS APPARENT DEMOTION. ALTHOUGH PERFORMANCE OF ALGERIA'S INDUSTRY HAS NOT LIVED UP TO EXPECTATIONS, ABDESSELAM'S POSITION HAD UNTIL RECENTLY APPEARED SECURE, AND MOST POLITICAL SOOTHSAYERS HAD BEEN PREDICTING HIS ADVANCEMENT. THERE WILL DOUBTLESS BE MANY THEORIES ABOUT POLITICS OF THIS CHANGE, CONFIDENTIAL

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AND WE WILL BE SIFTING AND EVALUATING THESE IN NEAR FUTURE.

B. DRAIA AND BENCHERIF SHIFTS SEEM TO MOVE THESE TWO MILITARY MEN AWAY FROM THEIR POWER BASES. UNLIKE BENCHERIF, WHO HAS BEEN REGARDED AS POSSIBLE POLITICAL OPPONENT OF BOUMEDIENE, DRAIA'S LOYALTY TO REGIME RARELY QUESTIONED.

C. LIMPING AGRICULTURAL SECTORY HAS BEEN LEFT IN CHARGE OF TAYEBI LARBI, AND A SECOND NON-TECHNICAL MAN, BENCHERIF, WILL ALSO BE INVOLVED IN THIS AREA, GIVEN HIS NEW MINISTRY'S RESPONSIBILITIES.

D. AMONG NEWCOMERS, MALEK AND LACHERAF WERE TWO OF FOUR OR FIVE MEN WHO WROTE NATIONAL CHARTER AND PERHAPS CONSTITUTION AS WELL. MALEK SAID TO BE WELL QUALIFIED FOR INFORMATION POST FIVEN HIS WARTIME SERVICE IN TUNIS AS EDITOR OF FLN'S EL MOUDJAHID.

E. BENYAHIA APPEARS LESS QUALIFIED THAN HIS TWO PREDECESSORS, TEMAM AND SMAIL MAHROUG, TO BE FINANCE MINISTER. ACCORDING TO OUR INFORMATION, HE HAS HELD NO MAJOR ECONOMIC POSITIONS.

F. AMONG THOSE LEAVING CABINET, FORMER INFORMATION

AND CULTURE MINISTER TALEB IBRAHIMI COMES CLOSEST TO BEING  
REGIME INSIDER. WE EXPECT HE WILL BE GIVEN SOMETHING PRESTIGIOUS  
TO DO. FORMER HYDRAULICS STATE SECRETARY ARBAOUI HAS BEEN OUT-  
EPTKEN IN HIS CRITICISM OF REGIME, AND HIS DEPARTURE HAD  
BEEN EXPECTED.LYNE

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## Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009